

book in detail; the various phases of child-education are briefly and well considered, and many useful practical hints are given.

A. J. L.

#### **A Practical Text-Book of Midwifery for Nurses.**

By Robert Jardine, M.D., Edin., M.R.C.S., Eng., F.F.P. & S., Glasg., F.R.S., Edin., Professor of Midwifery in St. Mungo's College, Glasgow; Senior Physician to the Glasgow Maternity Hospital, Glasgow; Examiner in Midwifery to the Scottish Conjoint Board; Formerly Examiner in Midwifery to the University of Glasgow; Late President of the Glasgow Obstetrical Society; Author of Clinical Obstetrics. Third Edition, London: Henry Kimpton; Chicago: W. T. Keener & Co. 1906.

This small book is based on the lectures given by the author to the nurses in the Glasgow Maternity Hospital. While primarily intended as a text-book for them, the arrangement and scope of the work is such that it may be profitably read by all. Dr. Jardine's wide experience with the needs of nurses enables him to speak with particular competence upon this matter. He has gone rather fully into the subject, possibly too much so from the standpoint of some. For our own part we believe that the more a nurse knows about the difficulties of midwifery work, the less likely is she to allow her cases to drag on until they are beyond hope, before she sends for skilled assistance. An obstetric nurse incurs a great responsibility since the treatment of the patient during the puerperium is largely in her hands. The more complete her knowledge and training, the more is the well being of her patient assured. Most of the training schools offer, at the present time, few and in many instances no opportunities at all for adequate schooling in obstetrics. It is high time that those responsible for this should be made to fulfill their obligations to both the public and the profession. Practical work and a theoretical course such as that so clearly and entertainingly outlined by Dr. Jardine would do much to remedy the present situation.

A. J. L.

#### **The Harvey Lectures Delivered Under the Auspices of the Harvey Society of New York. 1905-6.**

Philadelphia and London; J. B. Lippincott Company, 1906.

The busy practitioner, already overburdened with clinical literature, is rarely able to follow the results of research work usually scattered in specialized and often inaccessible journals. On this account much that is of value is either lost to him completely, or greatly delayed in reaching him. For this reason the Harvey Society was organized in 1905. It was felt that the medical profession would welcome an annual series of lectures on the purely experimental side of medicine. This book consists of the thirteen lectures given during the first year of the Society's existence. The character of the lectures precludes any extended review; we can do no more than give a list of the subjects discussed. Prof. Hans Meyer of the University of Vienna discussed the Theory of Narcosis; Prof. Carl von Noorden, also of the University of Vienna, Modern Problems of Metabolism; Prof. Frederick G. Novy, of the University of Michigan, Trypanosomes; Dr. P. A. Levene, Autolysis; Dr. W. H. Park, Serum Therapy; Prof. Lewellys F. Barker, of Johns Hopkins University, The Neurons; Prof. Frederick S. Lee, of Columbia University, Fatigue; Prof. L. B. Mendel, The Formation of Uric Acid; Prof. T. H. Morgan, of Columbia University, The Extent and Limitations of the Power to Regenerate

in Man and other Vertebrates; Prof. Chas. S. Minot, of Harvard University, On the Nature and Cause of Old Age; Prof. J. C. Webster, of the University of Chicago, Modern Views Regarding Placentation; Prof. Theobald Smith, of Harvard University, Some Phases of Tuberculosis; Prof. W. H. Howell, of Johns Hopkins University, The Cause of the Heart Beat.

A. J. L.

**Rhythmotherapy. A Discussion of the Physiologic Basis and Therapeutic Potency of Mechano-Vital Vibration to which is added a Dictionary of Diseases With Suggestions as to the** S. Wallian, A. M., M. D., President American Medico-Pharmaceutical League; Ex-President Medical Association of Northern New York; Member New York State and County Medical Societies; Fellow of the American Electro-Therapeutic Association; Member of the Medico-Legal Society, Associate Editor Medico-Pharmaceutical Journal, etc., Chicago. The Ouellette Press, 1906.

Rhythmic motion as a therapeutic measure has heretofore attracted little attention. First introduced by Vigoroux of Paris, and later experimentally investigated by Boudet and Granville, mechanical vibration as a curative agent has recently been put upon a more substantial basis. Occasional reports of its usefulness have appeared in the medical journals from time to time; but written for the most part by enthusiasts, this literature has not inspired the confidence of more critical minds. Hence rhythmotherapy has not received the trial which it probably deserves. That it may be of use in some cases is certain, but that its usefulness is so great as many of its advocates maintain, is doubtful. For experimental and clinical claims made for it let us examine Dr. Wallian's brochure.

Starting with the idea of Richet that the external world is neither more nor less than an embodiment and materialization of either blending or contrasting vibrations, the author formulates the following postulates: Health is a condition or sequence of harmonious vibrations; disease is interrupted or arrhythmic vibration, while death is the cessation or permanent interruption of organic vibrations. This may or may not be so; we can neither prove nor disprove it. At all events that is the theory from which the rationale of the treatment is derived. Accordingly, the more nearly remedial agencies en rapport with these "simple laws" the more prompt and satisfactory the results. From the laboratory side there is some evidence that physiological activity may be modified by mechanical vibration. For instance, Boudet was able to induce more or less anesthesia of nerves, and Colombo found that it promoted glandular activity. Clinically the author brings forward no convincing evidence of its efficiency in disease, although the list of conditions in which he claims good results extends from abscess, acromegaly, adenoma and anemia through hemophilia, insanity, movable kidney and cerebrospinal meningitis to tetanus, uric acid diathesis, and warts. We also read that "a phase of vibratory therapeutics which has as yet received scant attention—relates to the inauguration and cultivation of immunity." In brief, although written in excellent and entertaining style, the book is a very great disappointment. Assumptions are too often paraded in the guise of facts; and the plan of the work is marred by the introduction of inconsequential and irrelevant material. With fine possibilities before him, the author has utterly failed to give us a clear or critical estimate of the value of rhythmotherapy. A. J. L.